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ALLAH'S PEOPLES

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Introduction

Prophets in Islam - They hold such a special place in our lives and hearts. We know the sacrifices they made and the hardship they undertook to spread the word of Allah. However, wouldn't you like to emulate them and make them a part of your daily lives?

For us as Muslims, our Prophets are the perfect role models sent by Allah to look up to. They lead a life of righteousness despite facing immense hardships filled with trials that would shake the core of any human being.

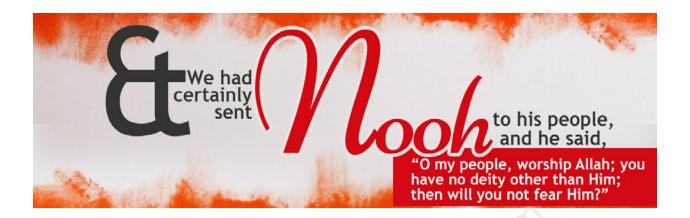
Allah preserved their life stories to help us deal with our daily battles and challenges, whether they are dunya or deen related. Learning more about them will help us bask in confidence while looking at their courage, in turn, filling our lives with a renowned sense of purpose and direction.

We have striven to compile some of the most moving incidences, stories, duas and examples of how our beloved prophets lead their lives in the cause of Allah. This booklet will make you look at Allah's chosen people in a completely new and refreshing manner.

Remember to send your peace and blessings upon all of them.

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Learning Dawah from Nuh (alayhi salam)

By Umm Salih

Nuh AS is one of the five prophets mentioned in the Quran as those who were determined.

Ibn Katheer writes in his commentary: "Those of determination' among the Messengers are Nuh, Ibrahim, Musa, `Isa and the last of all of the Prophets, Muhammad & "(Tafseer ibn kathir – Surah Ahqaf 46, 35)

All of us yearn to learn our subjects of interest from the best teachers around, experienced and knowledgeable in their fields. Why not spend some time along with Nuh AS and learn from him the core tips for Dawah. He was a teacher certified by none other than the Lord of the Worlds, and had an experience of more than 900 years in the field!

The Message of Nuh AS:

It was simple and clear; La ilaha illallah! (There

is none worthy of worship but Allah). We must also be straightforward and clear in our call. Our call should not be towards a worldly benefit, a tribal, national or regional cause or a specific religious faction or sect. It should be towards true monotheism and the clear path of Islam. To Muslims and non-Muslims alike, let us present the fact that true success lies in abating all deities beside Allah Allah , and submitting to Him willfully in all fragments of life.

"And We had certainly sent Noah to his people, and he said, "O my people, worship Allah; you have no deity other than Him; then will you not fear Him?"" (Surah Al-Muminoon 23, 23)

Utilize Every Resource:

"He said, "My Lord, indeed I invited my people [to truth] night and day. But my invitation increased them not except in flight. And indeed, every time I invited them that You may forgive them, they put their fingers in their ears, covered themselves with their garments, persisted, and were arrogant with [great] arrogance. Then I invited them publicly. Then I announced to them and [also] confided to them secretly. And said,



'Ask forgiveness of your Lord. Indeed, He is ever a Perpetual Forgiver." (Surah Nuh 71, 5-10)

Nuh AS put to use every possible means for dawah. He called the people in public and in private, at times he warned them and at times he encouraged them. In the same manner, we should utilize all possible methods in spreading the message of Allah Allah . Meet people individually and address them publicly. Spread the call through internet, mobile technology, social media, audio visual aids, etc.

Brainstorm about all the people you can call to the religion and make a list of the different ways in which you can do so, for e.g. I know of some people who make use of a free phone package and impart the knowledge of Quran over it. Some people still write letters to their family members giving them naseehah.

Soft and Humble:

Despite the behavior of his people, Nuh's AS tone did not change. Imagine yourself being

scorned at, and people putting fingers in their ears or covering their faces as you start speaking to them. Will you not be angry, or taunt them or at least have bad feelings and never call them again? The prophets of Allah Allah were true well-wishers of the people and did not lose their calm. When people criticized Nuh AS he responded in the noblest manner, always addressing them as 'my people'. As callers towards Allah Allah , we must reflect the same manners, and not come down to name calling, ill feelings and character assassination.

"[Noah] said, "O my people, there is not error in me, but I am a messenger from the Lord of the worlds." I convey to you the messages of my Lord and advise you; and I know from Allah what you do not know. (Surah Al- A'raaf 7, 61-62)

Draw Attention Towards the Creation of Allah:

Nuh AS turned the attention of his people towards the creation of Allah Allah , inviting them to ponder over it. "What is [the matter] with you that you do not attribute to Allah [due] grandeur. While He has created you in stages? Do you not consider how Allah has created seven heavens in layers. And made the moon therein a [reflected] light and made the sun a burning lamp? And Allah has caused you to grow from the earth a [progressive] growth. Then He will return you into it and extract you [another] extraction." (Surah Nuh 71, 13-18)

One does not have to give difficult analogies and examples. The deen is close to fitrah and simple enough for an illiterate bedouin to understand. For those who are already Muslims, when they contemplate on the creation of Allah &

their faith and trust in Allah Allah increases. For non-Muslims, the signs are a proof of the existence of a creator, His might and life after death. Whoever is your audience, children, young adults or adults, Muslims or non-Muslims, talking about the wonderful signs in Allah's creation will always be beneficial.

Patient Perseverance:

What was the fruit of 950 years of Dawah? According to different reports, the followers of Nuh AS range from 8-80. According to Ibn Abbas, in all these years, only 80 people believed in Nuh AS! (al bidayah wan nihaya).

Sometimes, we face situations where one is working hard but there is no response. Do not be discouraged! We are only responsible for our work and doing it properly in accordance with Sunnah. We are not responsible for the outcome. The whole story of Nuh AS teaches us patience and that we remain steadfast no matter what the results are. Our success lies in reward from Allah Allah and His pleasure.

After relating the whole story of Nuh AS this is how Allah & comforted His last prophet, Muhammad &:

"That is from the news of the unseen which We reveal to you, [O Muhammad]. You knew it not, neither you nor your people, before this. So be patient; indeed, the [best] outcome is for the righteous." (Surah Hud 11, 49)

As a Muslim, each one of us is a caller towards Islam. So, Rejoice! For this is a post appointed to you by the Lord of the World ***!** And remain patient; the best outcome is for the pious!





The Prophet's Way of Correcting People's Mistakes

Nasmira Firdous

We live in an age where judging others has become the norm and mocking people for their mistakes has become a huge pastime. While some of us might do it unintentionally, others might fall into this out of ignorance or even arrogance. Calling ourselves the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad & comes with certain responsibilities. One such responsibility is correcting people's mistakes.

Calling ourselves the Ummah of Prophet Muhammad & comes with certain responsibilities. One such responsibility is correcting people's mistakes.

Quite often in this quest of learning the deen and implementing it in our lives, we become over judgemental of our own brothers and sisters. Instead of correcting their mistakes, we pass fatwas, turning them further away from the beauty of this deen. It is important to understand and realize that this deen is easy and beautiful, and correcting people's mistakes should also be done in a beautiful manner.

"There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern (example) for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often." 1

We have been blessed with numerous bounties and gifts, which Allah Allah chose to specifically shower us with. He, Allah gave us a blueprint in life to follow, the Glorious Quran. Additionally, Allah Allah also gave us a guide in Prophet Muhammad and who inculcated this blueprint in his daily activities.

Therefore, let us look at how our Prophet SAW used to correct people's mistakes. Jot down certain specific characters of the Prophet, which you notice, while reading the ahadeeth mentioned below. Do remember to share your thoughts in the comments section in sha Allah.

Compassion and Love:

Anas ibn Maalik said, "Whilst we were in the mosque with the Messenger of Allah SAW, a Bedouin came and started urinating in the mosque. The Companions said, "Stop it! Stop



it!' But, the Messenger of Allah SAW said, "Do not interrupt him; leave him alone." So they left him until he had finished urinating, then the Messenger of Allah SAW called him and said to him, "In these mosques, it is not right to do anything like urinating or defecating; they are only for remembering Allah, praying and reading Qur`an, or words to that effect." Then he commanded a man who was there to bring a bucket of water and throw it over the (urine), and he did so." ²

While correcting the Bedouin and pointing out his mistakes, Prophet Muhammad & did not speak rudely to him, tell him off or humiliate him in front of others. Rather, he allowed the man to finish what he was doing, was patient the whole while and made him understand why he was wrong, softening the Bedouin's heart and cooling the rising tempers of his companions at the same time. How often have we softened others' hearts with kind words while correcting their mistakes?

Understand People:

Narrated Anas , "While the Prophet was in the house of one of his wives, one of the mothers

of the believers sent a meal in a dish. The wife, at whose house the Prophet was, struck the hand of the servant, causing the dish to fall and break. The Prophet SAW gathered the broken pieces of the dish and then started collecting on them the food which had been in the dish and said, "Your mother (my wife) felt jealous." Then he detained the servant till a (sound) dish was brought from the wife at whose house he was. He gave the sound dish to the wife whose dish had been broken and kept the broken one at the house where it had been broken."³

This is a very important quality to develop while trying to correct people's mistakes. More often than not, we tend to push our values and preach excessively without understanding why or what led that person to behave in such a manner. In the aforementioned hadeeth, we learn a mighty lesson. Prophet SAW understood that jealousy run's in a woman's mind when she is given a dish prepared by her co-wife. He didn't chide her for it nor did he yell at her in front of the other companions. He made her replace the broken dish with a new one. The matter was done and over with!

So, the next time you see your siblings do something which is inappropriate, rather than scolding them or scaring them away with harsh words, understand their psychology and get your point across in a polite manner. Winning people's hearts is the first step towards correcting their mistakes. This is a great way to prevent misunderstandings and clear many misconceptions too!

Grab your 'dawah moment':

Anas & reported that a group of the Companions of the Prophet SAW asked the wives of the Prophet SAW about what he did. One of them

(those Sahaabah, in an effort to become more religious by neglecting the dunya and increasing acts of i'badah) said, "I will never marry women." Another said, "I will never eat meat." Another said, "I will never sleep on a bed." (When the companions left, the wives reported the incident to the Prophet). The Prophet SAW praised and thanked Allah, then he said, "What is the matter with some people who say such and such? But, as for me, I pray and I sleep, I fast and I break my fast, and I marry women. Whoever turns away from my Sunnah has nothing to do with me."⁴

Did you notice how Prophet SAW used a vague description "some" rather than calling names while correcting their mistaken believes? He also made it a moment to teach them that Islam is all about moderation and balance between dunya and akhira. Giving dawah is an obligation upon us Muslims. So, the next time you see someone making a mistake, a sister not fulfilling her duties in wearing the hijab modestly or someone gossiping, instead of shouting "astaghfirullah", grab your 'dawah moment' and let them know what Islam says about certain things. Never directly come to the point of saying, "You're wrong!". You'll close the doors of Islam right there. Stay calm, bring up the topic indirectly, or even speak in an indirect manner to get your point across without taking names or pointing fingers.

Emulate the Prophet's akhlaq:

Allah Allah & has preserved the sunnah of Prophet Muhammad & for centuries, so that it could reach us. There is a reason for this. We are supposed to make Prophet Muhammad & our role model and emulate him in whatever we do. He used to smile often, so let's remain chirpy and exude positive energy towards others. He was soft and kind when dealing with laymen and his

companions. Let us be soft and kind to our own families and friends. He won people's hearts with his character, leading to the rapid spread of Islam, so much so that even his staunchest enemies accepted Islam and died for the cause of Islam!

Let's see how many hearts we can win over by emulating our Prophet Muhammad ## in sha Allah?

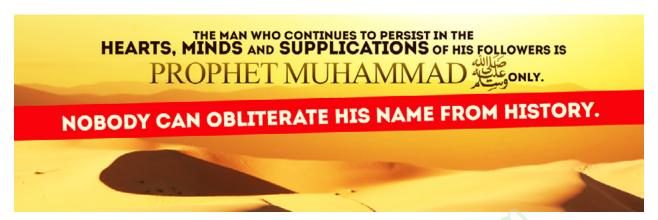
Maintain a diary. Jot down important points about how:

- You corrected someone,
- If you made use of the Prophet's principles in doing so,
- The kind of outcome you expected, and
- The kind of outcome you received.

Add a star to each heart you managed to win, in sha Allah! Let's see how many hearts we mange to collect. Our Prophet's personality was like a magnet, attracting people naturally. Let's see how many people we can attract by correcting their mistakes, the sunnah way, in sha Allah.

References:

Surah Al Ahzab 33:21 Saheeh Muslim, Number 285 Sahih Bukhari: Volume 7, Book 62, Number 152 Saheeh Muslim. Number 1041



Destined To Be Honored: The Messenger Of Peace

Nisaar Nadiadwala

Imam Bukhari's Tarikhul Kabir is an encyclopedia regarding people who used to narrate about the Messenger of Allah SAW. He compiled this masterpiece so that the future generations may get to access and examine the authenticity of each narration about the Prophet of Islam SAW, before they pass it on to others.

In the history of mankind, there is only one man whose truthfulness is preserved by the verification of the testimonies of thousands of narrators' truthfulness. You have to be truthful if you narrate anything from the Prophet SAW. Every narrator of his narrations has been scrutinized. Nobody has been safeguarded in history in the same way as Prophet Muhammad . Nobody knows

how Jesus Alayhi salam or Rama looked like. But ask a young Muslim schoolboy studying even in a Convent school run by Christian Missionaries, and he will tell you minute details about his Prophet SAW. Every act of his is kept alive in the memory of Muslims.

EVEN HIS NAME CANNOT BE SCRUBBED OFF

According to the sixth edition of The Columbia Encyclopedia (2000), 'Muhammad' is probably the most commonly given name [in the world], including variations. It has been estimated that more than 150 million men and boys in the world bear the name 'Muhammad'.

'Muhammad' was the most common name given to baby boys in England and Wales in 2009, 2011 and 2012 and the second most popular name in 2007 and 2010, combining 14 spelling variations.

A FASHION THAT REFUSES TO BE OUTDATED

His SAW lifestyle remains an important



chapter in the syllabus of Religious studies for his followers.

Consider this: A man whose lifestyle is the target of attack for the past 1400 years, has continued to flourish in every latitude and longitude of the world. The survival-age for the actors of Hollywood and Bollywood is usually not more than a few decades, whereas the splendid performers in stadiums of the

Olympics are replaced by next generations within a few years. Conversely, young men with flowing beards and trousers above their ankles, learning to recite the Qur'an and lifting every morsel of food with their right hands would not let their hero fade away. Everything that he did, the Muslims want to do – A FASHION THAT REFUSES TO BE OUTDATED.

PROMOTION WITHOUT ANY MARKETING AGENCY

His enemies continue to work hard, so much so that no man in the history of mankind has been maligned to the degree which our Prophet Muhammad & has been maligned and subjected to. The "Convey from me even if it is a verse", is a responsibility that Prophet SAW assigned to every Muslim, to carry forward the legacy that makes Islam easily available to study in every age and in every country.

No teaching can stand against such extreme hostility, but Islam remains busy, welcoming its new adherents every day in every corner of the world despite being under attack.

Marxism could not stretch beyond 80 years. Communism gave up the fight against Capitalism. Even Christianity has lost its original colors, transforming into a variety of colorful festivals, overpowered by Secularism and Democracy after merging with Ancient Roman Paganism right from the first century. Many other religions are only preserved in books and festivals, but Islam subsists in the life of its followers.

With about 60,000 books written to target him and his teachings in just a span of 150 years from 1800 to 1950, with thousands of websites trying to disqualify his prophet-hood, this magnificent man's teachings continue to capture the hearts and minds of those very countries that are the epicenters of emitting hateful lava.

THE MAN WHO CAPTURES PRIME TIME WITHOUT PAYING TV CHANNELS

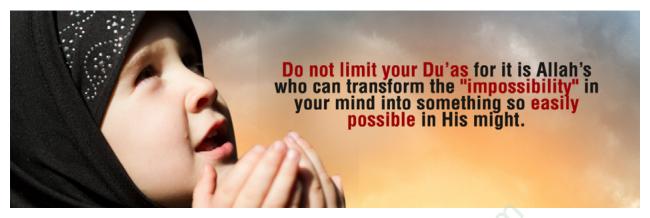
There is a difference between fame and honor. Fame is pursued but honor arrives. In the field of Da'wah, hope for honor but do not chase fame. Honor comes from Allah Allah **s** and it comes to those who work only for His sake. Prophet Muhammad & is the man whose name sells TV shows even without him being present on the sets. He is the only man who has the privilege of being narrated for and against every day since his appointment as the Prophet of Allah. People can do PhDs in every lesson he taught. Islam is the only subject on which the largest numbers of books are written, against as well as for. There are no less than half a million Islamic manuscripts in the libraries of Arabia, still waiting to be published.

The man who continues to persist in the hearts, minds and supplications of his followers is Prophet Muhammad only.

Nobody can obliterate his name from history.

No one can delete his honor destined by Allah Allah on hear hear guaranteed by Allah Allah himself.

"And they wish to blow off the light of Allah, but He will never let it happen, except that His light will be perfected, even though the unbelievers dislike it." (At Toubah, 9: 32)



Dua of Ibraheem alayhi'salam

Shifnas Bint Thamiem

Our world is filled with beautiful inspirations through which all of us get motivated, reminded and supported. When we take our very first step in the way of becoming good; good inspirations always start following us. Some inspirations are so dynamic and powerful that we never get tired of drawing inspiration every time we look at them, and every time, we find new gems hidden inside. I would like to share one such priceless inspiration which influenced me in my personal life. It is a verse from the glorious Qur'an.

"Our Lord, I have settled some of my descendants in an uncultivated valley near Your sacred House, our Lord, that they may establish prayer. So make hearts among the people incline toward them and provide for them from the fruits that they might be grateful." (Al Ibraheem 14:37)

No matter how many times I read the aforementioned verse; it never fails to give me a fresh meaning; it never ceases to stun me with

its powerful reminder.

This verse may be analyzed from various angles and through different analogies. I do not intend to give explanation to the above verse; neither am I knowledgeable enough to do such a great and noble job. I am writing this piece as an average human being who got inspired by one of its meanings and facets. I am solely responsible for any mistakes which I have penned in this article and I ask Allah to forgive my shortcomings for He is the Most Forgiving.

The Introduction

Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam was ordered by Allah to leave his wife Hajarah and his son Isma'eel Alayhi salam in Makkah where no trace of cultivation or civilization existed. Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam left his beloved wife and baby son there, with a leather bag containing some dates, a water skin filled with some water and set out homeward. Immediately after fulfilling Allah's order, Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam made the aforementioned Du'a.

The priceless possession a human being can ever have is the love that Allah instills in his heart for his family and loved ones.

That particular love of Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam was tested by Allah **&**.

When Allah ordered Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam to leave the love of his life in a barren land, he never opposed neither dd he question back. He happily fulfilled Allah's order and made Du'a for his beloved wife and son. The complete trust he had on his Lord helped him to move forward on this task. What inspired me about this scenario was the way Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam made Du'a.

The Inspiration

Let's assume that we are left alone in a barren land, a desert, with no positive signal bars on our phones, emptied food packets and no water. It's obvious that we would turn to Allah seeking His help, and ask Him to take us out of the tragedy. Let's be honest and answer the following question.

How would we pray to Allah ******? What supplication would we make? How would we ask Allah ****** for help if we were to get trapped in such a calamity?

Let me list few of them:

"Oh Allah, protect us from all harms"

"Ya Allah, please help us, let someone pass by and guide us to a safer place"

"Ya Allah, at least show us a pond, so we can quench our thirst"

"Oh Allah! Help us this time, help us only once, we won't ask for anything thereafter! Please help."

Let's think out of the box and ask ourselves whether we would ever think of asking Allah to send us a bottle of our favorite beverage and a hot pizza? Would we ask Allah to grant us with some fruits so that we can enjoy our stay there? Would we?

Subhan'Allah! According to many of us, these things are possible only in novels. Most of us would think that asking Allah for these kind of blessings is foolish, covered by lack of common sense which cannot be fulfilled even in a dream.

If one among us asks Allah to send him his favorite food and fruits when he is lost in a barren land; we will surely label him to be one of the "mentally imbalanced".

The fact of the matter is that by breaking logic, priorities, formalities and "common sense"; Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam asked Allah **&** a greater Du'a.

He asked Allah to let people pass with love so that his loved ones' safety is assured.
He asked Allah to grant fruits for his loved ones, so that they may give thanks.
Fruits in a barren desert with no cultivation thousands and thousands of years ago is obviously a phenomenon which can be questioned for its possibility. But nothing in this world stopped Prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam to make a prayer asking for such a big blessing even when his loved ones were left alone.

He did not restrict his Du'a only seeking their protection; neither did he limit his plea with phrases like "at least", "only once" or "only this time". Rather, he put his trust on his Lord and made the best dua he could make, because he strongly believed that nothing is impossible for

Allah 🝇 .

Allah **s** in return gave more than what prophet Ibraheem Alayhi salam asked for, and favored him with the best of blessings.

What I personally learned about this supplication is that we, as Muslims, should never feel awkward to ask Allah & whatever we want. If we try to limit our Du'as, then we are literally underestimating Allah's & ability of giving blessings and His ability of transforming impossible things into a possiblity.

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and His ability of transforming impossible things into a possiblity.

Du'a or Supplication itself is considered to be an act of worship.

The Prophet & said, "Du'a (supplication) is worship." Abu Dawood Book 17, Hadith 1465

Therefore, we must realize that Allah is is the Giver of Givers and thus, we should never be reluctant to ask Him is for anything and everything. We should never think twice to supplicate in a grand manner, for Allah is "Al-Ghaniyy": The One without any need; the Independent; The One who transcends all needs.





The Legend and the Legacy of a Prophet

Zaynub Zafar

"And Allah did take Ibrahim (Abraham) as a Khaleel (an intimate friend)" [an-Nisa' 4:125]

All of us are leaving footsteps behind, our traces in this world. And when we die, we will be remembered and judged according to those traces. They can be good or bad. That will be the legacy we leave behind.

Needless to say, this legacy should be powerful... inspiring! But what should it be? What can we do to outdo other common legacies? How about delving into one of the most brilliant legacies ever left behind? The legacy of Ibrahim alayhis salam. Because:

"Indeed there has been an excellent example for you in Abraham and those with him." [Mumtahanah 60:4]

A lot of people leave behind their stories which the world remembers and cheers on. But the legacy we are going to read about is unique. It is unique quite simply because it is not only a legacy of power and great vision, but more importantly, for me, it is a legacy of loyalty and pure heart-felt love. Yes you read it right – a legacy of loving Allah (Allah).

Ibrahim alayhis salam was a man of vision and deep insight. He not only thought of his immediate children, but also about his entire progeny. His concern for their spiritual well-being and his constant prayers to Allah(Allah) showed his deep vision: the vision of having pure tawheed alive amongst his descendants.

Listed below are five incredible points of his legacy:

1. Pure love for Allah and living la ilaha illaAllah:

Human history is the long terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy.

Allah ****** mentioned about Ibraheem alayhis salam in His Book, the Quran:

"Abraham was indeed a nation, devoutly obedient to God, true in Faith, and he joined not partners with God" [An-Nahl 16:120].

- 1. Devotion.
- 2. True in faith.

3. No shirk, which meant absolute Tawheed by default.

And the pure concept of tawheed etched in ones heart + devotion + truthfulness in faith = 100% pure love for Allah ## and Him alone.

This was Ibrahim alayhis salam!

And what were the fruits of this love that he saw in his life? Apparently, if you see his life in a quick glance, you see no fruits. Strange? Because what you find is: either struggle or sacrifice. But looking much more deeply, you find contentment behind those struggles and extreme love behind those sacrifices. He found (what all of us keep looking for throughout our lives), due to his love for Allah #- peace!

As opposed to what Ibrahim alayhis salam had for Allah — pure love and firm belief in tawheed – what we have is another story. Simply put, we do not have that peace in our lives; we cringe at the very thought of separation with our loved ones, we cannot even begin to imagine the idea of sacrificing something small (like quitting smoking, for example) for Allah — let alone sacrificing something big! Our lives revolve around obsessive love for one's spouse, crazy children-centered homes, overwhelming lust for a boyfriend, excessive love for wealth, extra hope pinned in some human being... You can go on and on as the list is pretty much endless.

Do you see the fault with our theory of love? We seek love in all the wrong places and, hence, come back heart broken. The moment we love *anything* more than our Creator, that very thing we love more becomes the cause of our greatest pain. But Ibrahim alayhis salam found love in its right place, with Allah **, and that's why he had "qalb e saleem" – a sound heart.

We profess with our tongues that we believe in

la ilaha illaAllah but our actions seldom actualize the kalimah. We claim we love Allah the most but fail to give Him priority every time! (You delay fajr prayer for sleep, you miss dhuhr for work, isha for the World Cup, take interest based loans to please your wife, etc.)

We are taken over by the love of this world and that leaves us with less or no room for the love of the Creator in our lives. Pick up the famous novel "Twilight" and see how it teaches us about obsessive love for humans, which involves loving the creation more than the Creator, breaking all the boundaries of halaal and haraam in the name of love for some created being.

Nowadays, other loves are competing in a Muslim's heart. Muslims need to make the love of Allah superior to all other forms of love.

Know that people will continue their lives when you die. Indeed, when you die, they will stop calling you by your name. They will ask, "Where is the janazah? Where is the body?" Once you're buried they will refer to you as "the grave" and will say, "I'm going to visit the grave of so and so." So do not sacrifice your relationship with your Lord for the sake of your family and friends. Focus on a relationship that is for eternity: your relationship with Allah.

Look at this profound piece of writing:

"Allah has decreed that he who loves something other than Him will surely be tormented by it; that one who fears something other than Allah will come under its control; that one who involves himself with something to the exclusion of Allah will find it a source of grief; that one who prefers another to Allah will not be blessed therein; and that one who tries to please a fellow creature by anything displeasing Allah will, without fail, bring His anger upon himself." [Ibn Qayyim al Jawziyya]

2. Submission:

And this love brought about submission towards Allah for Ibrahim alayhis salam. Because, obeying and submitting to the orders is the natural consequence of love. If you can't submit, you don't really love. It's that simple.

Every prophet has a specific quality. When it comes to Ibrahim alayhis salam, submission was his unique quality. He was submissive to his Lord.

"When his Lord said to him, "Submit", he said "I have submitted [in Islam] to the Lord of the worlds." (Al-Bagarah 2:131)

The mufasireen say about this ayah: When Allah said to him to submit, there was no pause and no intermission and no questions asked. Allah said, "Submit," and Ibrahim alayhis salam immediately said, "I submit to the Lord of the worlds." When we check the life of Ibrahim alayhis salam and the rites of Hajj, we see the submission of Ibrahim alayhis salam. For that reason, Islam (which is submission and surrendering to the will of Allah soes all the way back to the original practice of monotheism of Ibrahim alayhis salam.

Whereas we, on the other hand, need to have a thousand questions answered, a hundred heart attacks, many motivational reminders and many sleepless nights before we finally take up some Quranic command and make a decision (wearing hijab, for instance).

Ibrahim alayhis salam submitted to the Will of Allah ******. But we have a problem with this type of submission. If you look closely, the heart of the Qur'an's message is:

- **1.** Accept Allah **38** as your Master.
- 2. Accept yourself as His slave.
- 3. Guidance comes to those who accept

themselves as His slaves.

It is very easy for us to accept that Allah **s** is Merciful. We accept that and say "Cool, I will continue to do whatever I want."

But we have a hard time accepting that He is our Master. Because, that implies we are slaves and slaves are not free people; they are supposed to do everything the Master says. They are supposed to submit. And because our evil desires and egos are so inflated, we fail to accept Him as our Master. We might say it through our lips, but our actions prove otherwise.

If you want to really LIVE the legacy of Ibrahim alayhis salam, you have to accept Allah **36** as your Master and submit to His commands.

3. Sacrifice:

And it was because of this over flowing love for Allah that Ibrahim alayhis salam was ever ready to give up anything and everything for Allah . He left his father, his people, his homeland where he lived and grew up, his comfort and eventually, even prepared to literally slaughter his extremely beloved son, Ismael alayhis salam – all for the sake of Allah .

But Allah saved him from the great trial of sacrificing his beloved son. Because, the purpose was not to slaughter the son, rather the aim was to make the heart pure for Allah's love. And Ibrahim alayhis salam had that pure love. If we are able to take this lesson of sacrificing everything for the love of Allah beginning with the act of sacrifice done on Eid alAdha, then we have achieved the essence of the message. Because, in the end, it comes down to whether or not we are ready to give up all that we desire for the One we believe in.

4. Tawakkul:

"O Ibraahim, will you go and leave us in this valley in which there are no people and nothing?" Hajar asked her husband, Ibrahim alayhis salam several times and he did not answer her. Then she said to him: "Is it Allah Who has commanded you to do this?" He said: "Yes." She said: "Then He will not forsake us." Narrated by al-Bukhaari, 3184.

An unparalleled example of having trust in Allah's plan. This reflects Ibrahim alayhis salam's state of tawakkul. Is it easy to leave behind your family in a remote place like this? Definitely not. But when Allah ## tells you so, you do it without any hesitation and fear.

Can we do that? With our current state of faith, the answer will be obvious!

Was there any reward for this love of Allah ****** and this unmatched submission? Yes. The rewards were many. And one of the obvious ones was:

5. Hajj and building the ka'bah:

"And (remember) when Ibraaheem (Abraham) and (his son) Ismaaee'eel (Ishmael) were raising the foundations of the House (the Ka'bah at Makkah), (saying), 'Our Lord! Accept (this service) from us. Verily, You are the All-Hearer, the All-Knower'" [al-Baqarah 2:127]

The chapter of the establishment of Hajj is unique. Muslims are following the legacy of Ibrahim alayhis salam to this day. I want you to keep this mind: whenever you go for Hajj, you are the response of Ibrahim alayhis salam. You are the response of his call when Allah stold him to call the people to come for Hajj!

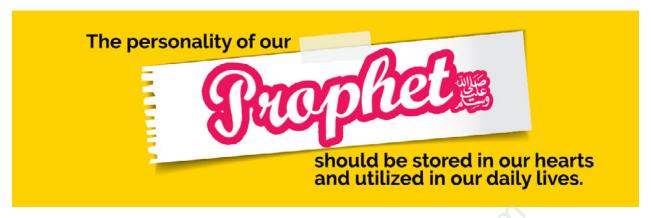
Bottom line: This is the legacy of the great Prophet of Allah, Ibrahim alayhis salam. Love Allah **38**. Then submit. And isn't that the meaning of being a Muslim?

Love for Allah **s** made him successful. And Allah **s** praised him as follows:

"And [mention, O Muhammad], when Abraham was tried by his Lord with commands and he fulfilled them. [Allah] said, "Indeed, I will make you a leader for the people."" (Al-Bagarah 2:124)

La ilaha illaAllah is not just a statement of the tongue; let the heart bear witness!





Personality Development Lessons from the Prophet's Last Sermon

Amina Edota

Growing up, I have a vague memory of a wall frame that adorned our home. It was covered with writing and for this reason, I never paid much attention to it. The most fascinating thing about it was the background – mostly blue and brown showing a mountainous terrain.

I discovered later on that the writings were words from the Prophet's last sermon in the 'Uranah valley of mount Arafat (Makkah). I'm not sure what became of the frame, it likely ended up in storage. The message it carries, however, is not meant for storage – to become abandoned and forgotten. Rather, it should be stored in our hearts and utilized in our daily lives.

Listen below are 8 Personal Development Lessons for your Spiritual and Self growth (from the sermon).

1. Uphold consciousness of Allah 😹

Sermon: "Remember, one day you will appear before Allah and answer for your deeds. So beware, do not astray from the path of righteousness after I am gone."

Goal: Remember Allah ﷺ always.

Tip: Engage in righteous deeds and ask yourself each night: Will Allah se be pleased with my deeds of today? How can I make tomorrow more pleasing to Allah se?

2. Prioritize on your acts of worship starting with the 5 pillars

Sermon: 'O People, listen to me in earnest, worship Allah, say your five daily prayers (salah), fast during the month of Ramadan, and give your wealth in zakah. Perform hajj if you can afford to."

Goal: Master the five pillars with sincerity, excellence and devotion.

Tip: Schedule your daily prayer times on your phone as appointments – with reminders before and during scheduled times.

3. Be a conveyor of the message of Islam

Sermon: "All those who listen to me shall pass on my words to others and those to others again; and may the last ones understand my words better than those who listen to me directly."

Goal: Become one who invites to Islam.

Tip: Share this article or at least one point of benefit with others.

4. Use Quran & Sunnah as reference points

Sermon: "O People, no prophet or apostle will come after me and no new faith will be born. Reason well, therefore, O People, and understand my words which I convey to you. I leave behind me two things, the Qur'an and my example, the sunnah and if you follow these you will never go astray."

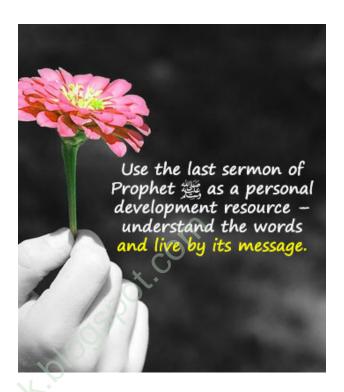
Goal: Study the Qur'an and sunnah through authentic channels such as IOU.

Tip: Make it a daily habit to reflect on at least one verse of the Qur'an and a hadeeth in a language you understand.

Take note of Shaytan's presence and plot to corrupt your heart and soul

Sermon: "Beware of Satan, for the safety of your religion. He has lost all hope that he will ever be able to lead you astray in big things, so beware of following him in small things."

Goal: Distant yourself from Satan; avoid sins and bad deeds.



Tip: Avoid sins and bad deeds by indulging in doing more good deeds (to wipe out your sins), repent, read about Satan's plots [read Ibn Kathir's 'Stories of the Qur'an'].

6. Uphold true brotherhood - say NO to racism, tribalism and nationalism

Sermon: "All mankind is from Adam and Eve, an Arab has no superiority over a non-Arab nor a non-Arab has any superiority over an Arab; also a white has no superiority over black nor a black has any superiority over white except by piety and good action. Learn that every Muslim is a brother to every Muslim and that the Muslims constitute one brotherhood."

Goal: Treat fellow Muslims as equals.

Tip: Read stories of the Prophet's companions.

7. Be attentive

Sermon: "O People, lend me an attentive ear, for I don't know whether, after this year, I shall ever be amongst you again. Therefore listen to what I am saying to you carefully and take these words to those who could not be present here today."

Goal: Listen and pay attention to people and happenings.

Tip: Use your senses to capture information correctly – through writing, active listening, etc.

8. Be just, trustworthy and interest-free

Sermon: "O People, just as you regard this month, this day, this city as sacred, so regard the life and property of every Muslim as a sacred trust. Return the goods entrusted to you to their rightful owners..."

..."Allah has forbidden you to take usury (interest), therefore all interest obligation shall henceforth be waived. Your capital, however, is yours to keep. You will neither inflict nor suffer any inequity."

Goal: Be 'just' in your interactions.

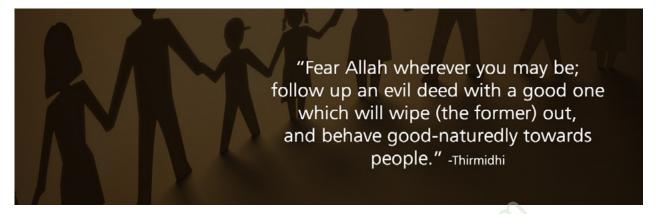
Tip: Manage people and money with a just and pure intentions, knowing that you will be held accountable in front of Allah ...

A Message for All Times

The Prophet's also last sermon is a message for mankind today and for all generations to come. It lays out basic principles for getting the best from oneself as well as benefiting others. Reflecting on its message is a good exercise. Applying its lessons can be equated to a similitude of using the rights tools for the right task – improving one's life holistically.

Although, I have not seen our old family frame in a long time, the message it carries lingers in my life. I encourage you to use it as a personal development resource – understand the words and live by its message.





Dua of Musa Alayhi'salam

Hays Ismail

Musa AS is the most frequently mentioned prophet in the Qur'an, so much so that our scholars said, "(It was) almost like as if the Qur'an is about Musa AS". The story of Musa AS is such an amazing and inspiring one that every time I read any part of it, I find solace in it. From his birth till the Exodus from Egypt, and perhaps even after that, he was in grave danger many, many times and Allah ** saved him.

One such occasion was his escape from Egypt and landing up in Madyan when he makes a beautiful and powerful dua:

"My Lord, indeed I am, for any good that you bestow on me, very needy." (Surah Al Qasas, 28:24)

The words of this dua are words of desperation, words that reflect how lost Musa ASis feeling, so much so that he can't even bring himself to ask for something specific, but he still asks and begs for *any* good that Allah * can send down upon him.

To have a little background, Musa AS unintentionally killed a man from the people of the ruling class of Egypt while he was only trying to restrain this man fighting with an Israeli, the slave class in Egypt at the time (also Musa's AS people). Now, the murder of a man from the ruling class by a man from the slave class would surely not go unpunished, and so when news reached MusaAS that they were plotting to kill him in retaliation, he fled Egypt immediately.

Imagine his situation – scared, remorseful, fugitive, alone. What does he have with him? What can he ask for? He arrives in a completely new place amongst unknown people and has no direction to pursue. And that's when Allah sinspires him with these beautiful words:

"My Lord, indeed I am, for any good that you bestow on me, very needy."

No matter how much you sin, don't lose your connection with Allah:

One very important lesson that I get from this episode of Musa AS is that no matter how big a crime you commit, it need not be a reason for you to lose your connection with Allah ******. Even the guilt and remorse we feel after committing

a major sin is from the mercy of Allah ﷺ, and we need to secure that by asking for Allah's ∰ forgiveness and beg for His favors upon us.

Satan, of course, tries to make us think otherwise – after what we've done, 'our connection with Allah is irredeemable', that 'we're evil now', 'we're too low', 'we've done this way too many times to have lost count', 'we're not any good'.

But here, Musa AS killed someone by mistake; and was full of remorse. Musa ASdid not drown himself in guilt and regret, he invoked Allah asking for any good because he's in a situation where he doesn't even know what to ask for specifically, he doesn't even know what's good for him, but he trusts Allah and so he begs Allah for it. How beautiful is this dua'a!

If you've ever been so desperate and lost that you can't even figure what's good for you and you need direction and help, then make this dua'a, it brings a lot of comfort to the anxious heart.

If you commit a mistake or sin, don't isolate yourself from the world:

Another inspiring move by Musa AS is his effort in trying to help the two women with their sheep, soon after arriving at Madyan. Despite whatever he has been through, wronged or committed wrong himself, he doesn't isolate himself from the rest of the world. When he sees someone in need of help, he gets up and offers it. Again, no sin is big enough to prevent you from doing an act of good.

Prophet Muhammad saw said, "Fear Allah wherever you may be; follow up an evil deed with a good one which will wipe (the former) out, and behave good-naturedly towards people."

It appears as though Musa AS is a personification of this hadith, because this is exactly what he's doing. And this is exactly what we should be doing as well — follow up a sin with a deliberate act of good and serve the people.

Admit your weakness and wrongdoings, but don't stop doing good:

Even almost a decade later, when Allah bestowed Musa ASwith prophethood and assigned him to go to Firawn and have the Children of Israel released from bondage, Musa AS expressed his hesitation due to having killed one of their men. Allah & assured Musa AS that He will strengthen him and he need not be afraid. When they meet, Firawn uses this exact weakness of Musa AS to undermine his Da'wah - reminding him of his past crime, but Musa AS responds bravely that whatever he did was out of ignorance and now, Allah has guided him, and continues with the work assigned to him. So, there's no harm in admitting our weakness and wrong-doings, but we shouldn't let them interfere with our pursuits by falling into despair, we shouldn't allow them to overwhelm us.

With Allah's help, you can achieve anything:

Nobody's perfect. We struggle and seek perfection everyday, although we won't reach it, we will keep improving as long as we keep trying. We'll fall and we'll have to pick ourselves up again. The best part about falling in Islam is that the rising back up is the most liberating experience, it teaches you that with Allah's support alone, you can overcome anything. Isn't it funny when someone says something rude and judgmental to us, we retort back with "Allah see"



is my Judge"; yet, when Satan, our archenemy, whispers thoughts to weaken us with guilt and immobilize us from doing any good, we give in and actually expose ourselves to bigger doom by losing hope in the mercy of Allah ?

Problems afflict every one of us. It's our choice whether we want to be defined by those problems or be defined by our goals. As a Muslim, our motto isour motto is: You (Allah) alone we worship and You (Allah) alone we seek help with], this is what should define us and drive us throughout our lives.

I've benefited from this dua'a many times, Alhamdulillaah. I hope I get to meet MusaASin the Hereafter and tell him how the words that he wove together into such an effective supplication brought comfort to my heart innumerable times. What an amazing moment that would be! Looking forward to that, in shaa Allaah.

Please share your thoughts about this article in the comments section below.

Tirmidhi.